

## Downing and the Contumacious Witness.

Those friends of Geo. T. Downing who have heard that his name has been connected with the Credit Mobilier investigation, will see by the following that it was simply a connection with the contumacious witness who is in the custody of the Sergeant-at-Arms.

The following conversation between Joseph B. Stewart and Downing the noted politician and caterer, proprietor of the House of Representatives restaurant, was overheard yesterday morning in one of the corridors.

Stewart: "Good morning, Downing. Have you increased your larder? you may have to find it in the Capitol. I am found of terrapin, canvas-back ducks, and those admirable New York oysters. You know me, intend to stand on my dignity and my rights, as I advised you to do in a certain case. Do you remember our conversation some time back? If I am to be fed by the Government I want to be well fed."

Downing: "I hold no stock in the Pacific. I know what you refer to. I disposed of my interest some time ago. I know your taste that you are a connoisseur. I have anticipated it, and have drawn on the oyster banks of New York, and hold their preferred stock. My investments are in oyster bank stocks."

Mayor Moffitt, of Detroit, Michigan, has been convicted in the Recorder's Court of the offense of twice pulling down a small-pox sign from one of his tenement houses, and fined \$100 for each offense. The Detroit Judge has set an example of independence and honesty which it would be much to the credit of some of his judicial brethren in other cities to follow. This verdict against the chief of the city for violating the laws will do more to command respect and obedience than the punishment of a score of petty disturbers of the peace.

The *Chicago Chronicle* has published several sensational articles rather favoring, if not decidedly advocating, the bill to refund the \$75,000,000 cotton tax, and we have observed no editorial in opposition to the scheme. But at least our neighbor seems to occupy an equivocal position in regard to the subject. If we are wrong, let the *Chronicle* set us right, and inform the public that it is opposed to the tremendous job?

NO FILL IN THE WORLD EVER had anything like the circulation of Ayer's Pills. Throughout these States, Mexico, and the Central American republic, down the slopes of the Andes, and across the pampas of South America, in negro villages, amid the fertile fields of Africa, throughout the jungles of India, and the steppes of interior Asia, over the continent of Australia, and the islands of the Pacific, these Pills are known and everywhere used as family remedies for diseases. With distant nations, their wonderful cures attract more attention than they do at home; for the sentiment of wonder takes a far deeper hold on their minds than the results of a higher scientific skill with us. The amount consumed requires seventy-five thousand doses a day to supply it. An inspection of the manufacture showed us how this enormous demand is made and sustained. Added to the consummate skill of their composition, is an extreme care in their manufacture, which at once secures the most perfect material and their most accurate combination. The consequence is a power and certainty in controlling disease which other remedies never attained.—*Baltimore Courier*.

Edinburgh.

This is certainly the most picturesque city I have ever seen. One can only stand and wonder and admire. I had no idea of it before, and had no idea of the place in the world. On the way here we passed the castle of the Duke of Athole, equal to a royal palace. His lands extend fifty miles, yet all about are lovely of poor people, sometimes wholly of mud, and with only one small window, and always with a dirt or stone floor. If this is not enough to make a rebellion I don't know what is. The poor people have got hold of our hearts; they seem honest and simple and very kind, but they are so poor, as a matter of course, that they are to live just as they do—that they are mere trash and that the gentry are some higher race; just as you might think horses and oxen would talk and feel if they could reason about themselves and their masters.

There is a very interesting orphan asylum here, known as Heriot's hospital. A Mr. Heriot, 250 years ago, made quite a fortune, for those days, and dying without children, left all his property to found this asylum. He said: "I am now an old man, and I have seen that I shall not want inheritors while there are orphan lads in Auld Reekie." Auld Reekie is the pet name of Edinburgh. And now there is in the most flourishing condition a large and beautiful edifice in which orphan boys and girls are reared, and which is to be the kind-hearted old man to be able to look down upon it from the other world. He has enjoyed it for 250 years, and I do not know why he may not as long as the world lasts.

The signs on the street are very curious here, and all over Scotland and England in fact; almost everything is different from ours. I have seen several of "Tailor and breeches-maker." The butchers are "Fishers" for furnishing stores it is called "Butcher." Then we see "Agent for Bespoke Goods," meaning simply "Ordered goods—"Perforators for Tinkers"—"Fruiters"—and a store is always a shop. The hotels, even the largest, are most invariably kept by Scotchmen, and the quiet, homelike way of conducting them makes them utterly unlike our hotels.

I send you a photograph of a Scotch terrier who died here lately, and of whose remarkable history the papers have spoken. It belonged to a very poor man, whose wife is now nearly decrepit, and who, for thirteen years he has kept watch and guard over it, and neither by coaxing nor stratagem has he ever been prevented from passing his nights there. He has been fed regularly for six years at a restaurant near the harbor, and the only way he has been able to get the "time gun" but not matter how rough the night may be, he has never been known to desert the grave; and when persons have attempted to keep him within doors, his dismal howling has always secured his release. This story to me about the most wonderful story I ever heard of; tell Jack about it, and see what he has to say. They call him "Grey Friars' Bobby."

"I have always heard of Scotland as a great whisky-drinking country, but the friends of temperance here have finally been so successful in their work all over the country. Both here and in Glasgow some of the largest hotels are temperance, proclaiming the fact on their signs; and a great many restaurants have up the temperance sign. We were all out sightseeing the other day and stopped at one of these restaurants for dinner. I—has to have a glass of porter with her dinner, so we inquired on going in if they kept porter; the keeper said no; this was a temperance restaurant. Father then told him that a lady of our party required porter for her health, and asked if he would object to our getting some and bringing it in to take with her dinner. He said it was a matter of principle with him, and he would prefer to have us go to some other restaurant, which we did. Was not this real Scotch temperance? There seem to be a solid strength in Scotch character that is admirable; they do not know how to prevaricate or flinch.—*Christian Union*.

Nearly 7,000 men and 1,000 horses are gathering here on the Hudson, and it averages eleven inches in thickness. About 9,000 tons are gathered a day. The crop will reach 1,500,000 tons, and will be gathered by the 1st of February.

## CHARLES SUMNER.

BY CHARLES A. MASON.

A royal man—pure souled and noble-browed. Bearing brave witness, yet once more aloud. Above the tumult of the warring crowd.

Mark you, what truth his fearless speech adorns! What mean you with your scourge of petty scorn? Your graceless mockings and your crown of thorns?

Always his steadfast soul has born the test! Has he not stood up firmest, bravest, best? Aye, head and shoulders above all the rest?

And now ye brand him recent to his trust, And heap your slanders on his head like dust—He, the renowned, the faithful, and the just!

O ye, heaven-lipped prophet! bide your time serene: Eternal are the things which are not seen; And that must be again which once hath been.

Is the disciple greater than his Lord? Has he not written out—nay, abhorred? And shall his servants miss a like award?

Nay, 'tis enough that we be even as He: He wrought in patience and in pain to see The end, great gain and perfect victory.

And so shall thou, sage of thy race and time! I see the panting peoples blindly climb, Sure of their leader, to thy height sublime—

Height where all party hate is lost in calm, Sweet brotherhood of nations; and the psalm In peace flows downward like a healing balm.

Din and far off the vision—but a lure Steadfast to God's own being and as sure—"Behold, we count them happy which endure!"

COMMUNICATIONS.

Letter from Ohio.

CINCINNATI, January 21, 1873.

To the Editor of the New National Era:

Five weeks ago today, the distinguished artist, ROBERT S. DUNCANSON, died in an insane asylum near Detroit. Born in New York, he emigrated at an early age to Monroe, Michigan, where he learned his trade of house-painter, but becoming ambitious of distinction, he soon transferred his efforts to canvas, and became celebrated long before his death for his ideal pictures.

His first prominence was obtained at the Art's Exposition of 1842, held in what was then the American hall, where he exhibited the portrait of a child, which was highly approved by Mr. John Q. Adams, who was on a visit here.

Through the generosity of Sontag, whom he accompanied, Mr. D. was enabled to visit Europe, the first time about 1850, when passing through France, Spain, and Italy, he received such strong impressions of Southern scenery as made it impossible for him ever to succeed in painting the cold, raw landscapes of England and Scotland.

His "Recollections of Italy," "Land of the Lotus Eaters," "Ben Bol," "Paradise and the Peri," were all ideal pictures of a very high order of merit.

"Ellen's Isle," I think, was presented to Hon. Charles Sumner two years ago.

Mr. Duncanson visited Europe several times during his residence of thirty years in this city, and upon the occasion of the last one was entertained by Tennyson, as a mark of his appreciation for the "Lotus Eaters."

"Paradise and the Peri," he asserted, was painted under the influence of Michael Angelo, and no doubt his insanity was caused by an intense devotion to spiritualism, coupled with the peculiar distress to which he was subjected; for, notwithstanding his great reputation, he was driven to the necessity of maintaining his family by retouching old pictures for Wm. Wiswell, the "artist's friend," in this city.

His professional brethren (?) called a meeting to pay a tribute of respect to his memory, but being "only a nigger," and himself ashamed of the little negro blood in his veins, "probably a quarter," as the Commercial puts it, only six artists attended, and they immediately adjourned *sine die*.

An amiable, pleasant man, of modest, unassuming disposition, he forfeited respect by repudiating the race with which he was identified, was ostracized by the whites from whom he sought social recognition, and became thereby almost a Pariah.

The subject leads me to call attention to another rising young Cincinnati artist in the person of

SOLOMON WHITE, ESQ., who cannot, if he would, successfully deny his identity of color.

Mr. White returned here from a Southern tour of theatrical scene-painting, and has since been engaged in his line at the Robinson Opera House, recently finished here.

He has received high encomiums of praise from the local press for the creditable manner in which the scenery and drop curtain are painted at this establishment, and is, I am informed, engaged to remain permanently.

During last August I met the Hon. WM. H. GRAY in Arkansas, who endeavored to lay before me his scheme of emigration, and the inducements necessary to produce an exodus of colored laborers from Georgia and other States in which they are ill-treated, in favor of Arkansas. Believing it to be the visionary plan of an enthusiast, I paid little or no attention to it, but recent developments have convinced me of my mistake.

Since my return home Mr. Gray has become Commissioner of Emigration for the State of Arkansas, and colored families are leaving Georgia at the rate of from 100 to 1,000 persons per day.

At first the planters looked on indifferently and thought it would not affect them much, but as the stream continues to carry off the brawny wealth of the State they have become aroused and are making efforts to restrain if not to prevent it entirely. They have learned that the European laborer cannot be cursed, kicked, and cuffed about, and therefore is a poor substitute. They find that white immigrants only go where they may acquire the soil, and they have little disposition to offer that inducement so long as the negro will pay 50 per cent. of the valuation annually for rent.

Every one knows the outrageous treatment of negroes in Georgia, and when we read the sentiments of its most liberal legislators, we are convinced of their Bourbonism, for "they never learn." If some of them could only be induced to take a trip outside the boundary line of the State and consent to remain over night, there might be some hope for her. Kentucky is about the same, or rather, a little more so.

A bill is now pending at Lexington to disfranchise the colored voters of that city by requiring them to show a tax receipt at the polls, while it is understood the collector shall receive no taxes from colored men, and therefore gives no receipts to them previous to an election.

This is but one of the many schemes being

continually concocted by the Democrats across the border, and I would be glad if friend Gray would extend his courtesies to that State.

SOCIAL.

On Tuesday evening about thirty gentlemen assembled around a magnificent "spread" at the residence of George Lee, Esq., for the purpose of welcoming the return home of Mr. Charles M. Wilson, after an absence of twenty-two years in California. Mr. Wm. H. Parham delivered the formal address of welcome, and Mr. Wilson in return was sensibly affected, if I may judge from his manner, by the many kind expressions of his friends. Prof. Peter H. Clark paid a glowing tribute in response to "Our Friend's Mother." Mr. A. J. Anderson, of Hamilton, was "too full for utterance," and Mr. A. S. Thomas endeavored to excel his usually excellent rendition of "Sheridan's Ride." Your correspondent, on behalf of "the press," was compelled to suppress the expression of how he was impressed upon that occasion on account of being oppressed by the pressure of more material matter.

DEATH.

Governor Pinchback.

Reception by the Leading Colored Citizens of the District.

Governor Pinchback, at the cordial invitation of Sidney McFarland, Esq., an old and esteemed friend, paid a special visit to his family on Saturday evening last, and was astonished to find, from the first, that he was not only a stranger, but a guest. He was met by John T. Johnson, Prof. J. P. Sampson, of North Carolina; F. G. Barbados, of California; Messrs. Black and Proctor, of Maryland; L. B. Penn, of Louisiana; Jackson, of Maine; Prof. R. T. Greener, late of Harvard University; Messrs. H. O. Wagoner, Jr., of Colorado; Messrs. Jerome A. Johnson, John W. Curry, Footie, Washington, Wornley, Delegate-elect Chase, Cryer, Savory, and other leading colored citizens.

After an exchange of the usual courtesies, and a general introduction, the Governor was invited to preside at a table of choice edibles and wines, furnished by the host, when the following toasts were given:

"The success of the Republican party and the triumph of said party in Louisiana." Responded to by F. G. Barbados.

"The success of Governor Pinchback." Responded to by John T. Johnson.

"The health and hearty support of the popular President of the United States." Responded to by Prof. R. T. Greener.

"The Republican party of the South." Responded to by Prof. J. P. Sampson.

"The health and prosperity of the host and hostess." Responded to by H. O. Wagoner, Jr.

"The Republicans of the District of Columbia." Responded to by John W. Curry.

Much credit is due Mr. McFarland for the handsome and hospitable manner in which he entertained Senator Pinchback. Hon. Mr. Turner, and his personal friends present. A vote of thanks was unanimously tendered him, and the company separated at a late hour, seemingly well pleased with the affair.

Speeches made to the occasion were made by those present, and it may be recalled that the speech of the Senator was listened to with marked attention, he seeming to be the centre of attraction.—*Washington Republican*.

OF A CUP OF COFFEE.—It has been truthfully said that even in these enlightened days, and in the lands most blessed by the influence of civilization, there are thousands upon thousands of persons born into the world who live long and then go down into their graves without ever having tasted a good cup of coffee. There are many reasons for this, and the principal one, of course, must be that so few persons know how to make good coffee. And yet there have been thousands of recipes and directions published which teach a man to make a good cup of coffee, by not boiling it; by confining the essence and aroma; by making it in an open vessel; by steeping it; by not steeping it; by clearing it; by not clearing it; by grinding it; by not grinding it; by using it; and by many other methods opposed to each other, and to all these. Now we do not intend to tell anybody how to make good coffee, but we just wish to say a word about the treatment of the coffee after it is made. And on this treatment depends its excellence, brew it as you may. The coffee should be kept in the old-fashioned fashion, he took a heavy gold chain from his neck and threw it over that of the brave brakenau, saying, "A better man should wear it." For achievement like these, there should be a better and more fitting reward than a gold chain. It is not time that we had one.—*M. F. Times*.

A BRAVE DEED.

CENT, MD., January 22.—Above and nearly opposite to Port Deposit, on the Susquehanna river, is a little island called Carr's Island, and it is a very curious fact that on that island were the Roberts brothers, and when the dreadful flood, caused by the choking of the stream with ice some days ago, was at its height, the island was isolated. This would have been a matter of no particular importance, but for the fact that the Roberts brothers were on the island, and when the dreadful flood, caused by the choking of the stream with ice some days ago, was at its height, the island was isolated. This would have been a matter of no particular importance, but for the fact that the Roberts brothers were on the island, and when the dreadful flood, caused by the choking of the stream with ice some days ago, was at its height, the island was isolated. 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